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Co-ordinating Committee.Export Controls Sub-Committee IC/DV ProcedureMemorandum by the United Kingdom Delegation

(References: COCOM Sub-C(59)2 (paragraphs 111-115) and Documents 3727 and 3767).

Following the discussions on the issue and use of global Import Certificates at the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Export Controls in May, 1959, and subsequently in the Co-ordinating Committee on 12th November, 1959, the United Kingdom Delegation has the honour to present its own views on the subject.

2. In the opinion of the United Kingdom Government, the issue of Import Certificates in suitable cases, unrestricted as to quantity or value is not inconsistent with the principles and rules of the IC/DV systems. Import certification arrangements were introduced in support of export licensing control, to guard against the illegal diversion of strategic goods and to provide that the importer should be liable to legal proceedings if he wrongly diverted the goods after export. As the certificate issuing authority (being the importing country) is not in physical control of the goods described in the document issued by them, the responsibilities of the exporting country are therefore unaffected. Whether or not the Import Certificate bears any indication of quantity or value, the onus remains on the exporting authority to follow up shipments made against specific export licences by means of D.V.C. procedure.
3. The United Kingdom Government does not consider the term "blanket" Import Certificate used in the Report of the Sub-Committee on Export Controls, September 1952 (Sub-C(52)17) to mean coverage in respect of a variety of goods even though they may fall within the same broad category, but rather that the Certificate covers multiple shipments of goods of an individual description or of a particular type, without limit on quantity or value.
4. Unrestricted certificates of this kind have, however, been issued by the United Kingdom authorities only exceptionally; stated limitations of quantity and value enable the issuing authority to ascertain more satisfactorily the exact usage to which an Import Certificate is ultimately put, and provides a determinant. In no circumstances would the United Kingdom Government consider the issue of unrestricted Import Certificates in respect of triangular transactions.
5. All Import Certificates issued by the United Kingdom authorities are valid for presentation to the authorities of the exporting country for a period of six months. It is not considered necessary in normal cases for any limitation of time to be imposed for shipment.

United Kingdom Delegation ~~to OEEC~~
Paris.

February 9, 1960.

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